



City of Grand Rapids

Fire Department honors its 2017 Firefighter of the Year



03/29/17: GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – The City of Grand Rapids Fire Department is proud to announce that Equipment Operator James McIntyre has been named the American Legion Furniture City Post #258's 2017 Firefighter of the Year. EO McIntyre is the 47th GRFD member to receive this prestigious Firefighter of the Year award.

EO McIntyre will be honored at the 2017 Firefighter of the Year Dinner on Friday, April 21 at the Boat and Canoe Club, 401 North Park NE, Grand Rapids. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. with dinner and the award presentation following at 7 p.m. Tickets are will be available until Friday, April 14 at the Fire Administration Building (38 LaGrave S.E.) for \$15 each.

According to Grand Rapids Fire Chief John Lehman, EO McIntyre serves his community with honor and distinction. He is an active and valuable member of the GRFD technical rescue and rope rescue teams, often mentoring new team members. EO McIntyre serves as a member of the GFRD Honor Guard, standing guard with unwavering compassion and representing the department with the utmost professionalism.

"As an Acting Lieutenant, EO McIntyre steps into that leadership role flawlessly, using his knowledge and dedication to protect the citizens of our community," Chief Lehman said. "While there are multiple examples of his selfless actions over the course of his career, within the last two years alone, a couple of incidents stand out. In May 2015, hearing that a resident was suspected to be in a smoke-filled apartment, EO McIntyre dove into an open window, located and pulled the unconscious occupant to safety. And, in February 2016, with no solid address, EO McIntyre skillfully maneuvered the engine and pinpointed the site of the fire. Upon breaching the front door so that other crews could access the house for search and extinguishment, he noted a female lying a few feet inside the door. EO McIntyre, with assistance from the Platform 2 EO, quickly retrieved her. Both citizens made full recoveries.

"EO Jim McIntyre is more than deserving of the honor of being selected Firefighter of the Year, but I would also like to recognize the other worthy and commendable nominees, Lieutenant Ryan Sparks, Lieutenant Matt Keusch and Training Chief Lee Finlayson," Chief Lehman concluded.

###